

Bailey

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A.M.

"Whom Shall I Fear?"

Scripture Lesson:- Psalm 27. Entire Psalm

Text:- Psalm 27: 1.

Introduction:- An important question is raised by the Psalmist concerning a wide-spread malady. This widespread malady is fear. He makes the inquiry, saying, "Whom shall I fear? Of whom shall I be afraid?"

Fear destroys confidence and courage which is essential to successful achievement in any field of endeavor. Jesus gave the exhortation to his disciples; "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

When Jesus uttered these words he also gave the key to the banishment of fear in the words that immediately follow; "Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid; ye believe in God, believe also in me." Fear paves the way to failure. David said; "My heart shall not fear." Three significant words are given by David, revealing how God banishes fear. These words are light, salvation, and strength, as given in Psalm 27: 1. The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my like, of whom shall I be afraid?"

I.

Light is essential to the physical life of the world. Light brushes back the dark curtains of the night each morning. Light brings the flood-tide of sunshine. Jesus described himself as the Light of the world; he that followeth me shall never walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. "There is a light that shines in the world and drives away the darkness and the shadows. There is a light that brings cheer and comfort. There is a light that sets the heart to singing praises of the living Lord himself.

The Apostle John had a vision of the heavenly city, where there was neither sun, moon nor stars; but the Lord God Almighty was the light thereof.

When Jesus Christ the Son of God

When Jesus Christ the Savior comes into the hearts of men he drives away the inner darkness, and sheds forth an inner light. If we have darkness or perplexity about any matter we will find the solution with the Lord.

The light of the Lord does not come by accident into the soul. The light comes by personal contact with the Lord, by our invitation to him to come in and dwell in our lives.

II.

Another word which David uses is "salvation." Men in every age have labored to prove that man needs no salvation. This philosophy does not believe that there is such a thing as the need of forgiveness of sin.

A young woman came into an inquiry room during a youth meeting. Her mind was darkened and perplexed concerning her Christian faith. She had at one time enjoyed a bright Christian experience, but after graduating from college, that joy had seeped out of her heart. After graduating from college she had continued in post-graduate studies. Much of the post-graduate work was under a woman who sought to instill in her classes that there was no need for salvation.

Such teaching involves the teaching that there is no sin. To deny the existence of sin is to be blinded to the most tragic fact in connection with human lives. Sin brings bondage and enslavement. Sin brings a harvest of death. Man needs salvation from sin. David said "The Lord is my salvation." Salvation is a very personal matter. It is a matter that concerns each of our most intimate souls. Christianity is different from all the other religions of the world in the fact that it is redemptive. No other religion is redemptive. No other religion lays any claim to power to break the shackles and fetters of sin that bind human hearts and lives. The gospel is the Good News concerning the fact of man's salvation.

III.

The other big word that David uses in connection

with the banishment of fear is "strength". The Psalmist says, "The Lord is the strength of my life." Strength is an inner quality. It is invisible to the eye. It is intangible to the hand.

Every life needs something to lean upon. Temptation to discouragement and despair come to all men. A sure protection against the temptation to discouragement and despair is the strength of the Lord. The strength of the Lord is greater than the strength of the enemy of man. The enemy of man is Satan. The strength of the Lord is many times times the strength of Satan, with all of his devices.

The strength of the Lord in the life of David was greater than the strength of the giant Philistine. David recognized the Lord as his strength. As he approached the giant to slay him, he announced that he came in the name of the Lord of Hosts. This humble shepherd boy, undergirded and vitalized by the strength of God, was more than a match for the Philistine giant.

One smooth stone in the shepherd's sling, in David's sling, directed by the strength of God, proved to be a more deadly weapon than the great sword of Goliath.

The word "strength" is used repeatedly in the Psalms. We should depend upon the Lord for our strength instead of upon great armies and navies. The army and navy are important units in the program of national defense of a nation. These should not be minimized, but these alone are not sufficient.

Our strength is not in numbers, but in the Lord. Numbers may even be a handicap to the program of God. Like Gideon in the conquest of the Midianites, he had too large a number. Gideon's number was reduced from 32,000 to 10,000, and then from 10,000 to three hundred. Three hundred men, having the strength of the Lord can accomplish more than 32,000 who depended upon their own strength.

IV.

Most of our troubles come from our efforts to go forward without the strength of the Lord. When David

said the Lord was his strength of his life, he meant every phase of his life. His family life, his social life, his recreational life and his business life.

Do we make the Lord the strength of our family

life? Do we make Him the strength of our social life, or do we make the social life of our times conform to the desires of the crowd?

Conclusion:- "Whom shall I fear? You are to fear no one. You have the best foundation for your position of any one in the whole wide world. You have the gospel of the Son of God, Jesus Christ.

The whole business of the gospel is witnessing. Do you know that you are a witness? Every Christian is a witness to what Christ has done for him. Tell it. Do not be afraid. The more you bear witness for the Lord, the easier it will become. What the church needs is a noble band of witnesses to tell to every one whom they meet what Christ has done for them. Do not be afraid. Tell to the world that you are a Christian. God will bless you for it.